

THE SYLVA HERALD

And Ruralite

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A Prayer For Peace

Dear Father, whom we cannot see,
We know that Thou art near;
With longing hearts we turn to Thee,
And ask that Thou wilt get us free
From war and hate and fear.

Dear Father, King of love and peace,
We know that Thou art strong;
Make conflicts everywhere to cease,
Let mercy everywhere increase,
And kindness conquer wrong.

Dear Father, Lord of sea and land,
We know that Thou art wise;
Oh, make the nations understand
That only by Thy guiding hand
Can splendid peace arise.

—JOHN OXENHAM

State-Wide Program Of Hospital And Medical Care

One of the most important matters facing the next General Assembly is the Governor's proposed State-Wide Program of Hospital and Medical Care for ALL the people of our State. Professional men, labor, farm, and medical leaders all agree that this movement for good health will be just as important to the public as our previous movements for good roads and good schools.

The major questions are how it will be worked out and financed. Our county and town have a vital stake in these matters, and our readers need to be informed, so they may make their wishes known to their Legislators.

With this purpose, The Herald is inaugurating this series of short articles on the major phases of the plan by various State authorities. The next in the series will appear next week, day next week.

By Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, State Health Officer and Secretary of the Governor's Commission on Hospital & Medical Care.

The citizen's first and most natural questions are: What is the need for this proposed State-wide program of hospital and medical care? And what will it mean to you and me and to the general public?

All right, let's begin right at home and look at your own case first.

Suppose your child is lying critically ill. If you have the money and you live close to a good doctor, hospital, and drug store, that is fine. Millions of our people are not so fortunate, and you may be in the same boat someday.

Now suppose you live in one of our 34 counties without a single hospital bed? Or your doctor has gone off to war? Or you are temporarily out of a job and funds? How would you feel then?

These are neither occasional nor scattered examples. They are stark realities every day to thousands of good Tar Heel citizens.

The plain truth of the matter is that North Carolina is desperately in need of MORE DOCTORS, MORE HOSPITALS, and MORE INSURANCE.

We like to think of our State as 1st in tobacco, 1st in cotton mills, 3rd in federal taxes, 11th in population, or always right up at the top.

But how many of our citizens realize that we rank exactly 45th among the states in number of doctors and 42nd in number of hospitals per 1,000 people. No wonder we are 41st in maternal and 39th in infant deaths!

The accepted formula is that there should be 1 doctor for each 1,000 people. But North Carolina has 1 doctor for each 1,554. Rural North Carolina has 1 doctor for each 3,613. And the colored race has one doctor for each 6,916!

The distribution of physicians is also poor. Many rural people live from 10 to 20 miles from a doctor. Fifty-five per cent of the state is more than five miles from a physician.

Again, the minimum approved standard is 4 hospital beds per 1,000 people. The figures for the white race are 1.59 in the East and 2.43 in the West. Those for the colored are .92 and 2.38. And 34 counties in the state do not have a single hospital bed!

Our hospital savings and insurance plans, despite their recent growth, still cover only 12 or 14 per cent of our people, and there is an urgent need to extend some such prepayment plan to the masses, and particularly the farmers.

Other pressing needs which will be taken up later include: a 4-year State Medical School and Hospital; new regional and added county hospitals; rural clinics and health centers; extensions of school and public health work.

Yes, the needs are clear and undisputed. The next topic is what is this State's proposed plan or solution, and that will come in next week's article.

1944 Christmas Seals

You will soon be contacted again to buy those prettily designed and printed Christmas Seals which bear the double bar cross, the mark of the unending fight against one of our worst diseases, tuberculosis. The North Carolina Tuberculosis Association has been conducting these annual sales for 40 years. While their progress was very slow at first, for many years accomplishing, what seemed very little, the work is now definitely one of the finest in the state. Hundreds of lives have been saved and those who have died in early life have been restored to normal health and are again useful citizens.

So—with all the drives now on and the many calls for money—think twice before turning down the Christmas seals. There are very few families in the state, rich or poor, that have not been touched personally by this disease. Help to continue the good fight by buying Christmas Seals.

Pulpwood Pounds Gates Of Berlin

General Eisenhower is authority for the statement that 5,000 rounds of ammunition are being poured into German defenses on the western front every minute. Six million rounds of artillery fire and 2,000,000 rounds of mortar fire are being hurled at the Nazis each month.

That's a lot of gun powder and explosives, and it took a lot of pulpwood to manufacture it. Pulpwood now makes 80 per cent of the smokeless powder used by our armed forces.

While pulpwood producers may feel justly proud of their part in blasting the Nazi fortresses, they should also heed the plea of General Eisenhower for even greater production on the Home Front:

"Unless everyone all the way through the nation, those at the front and those at home, keeps on the job everlastingly and with mounting intensity we are only postponing the day of victory," he said.

As a No. 1 war material pulpwood is playing a vital role in the Allied advances in Europe and in the Pacific. But this is no time for over-optimism. It is essential that Home Front production be increased to overcome last fall's lag when many persons believed the European war was about to end.

"We cannot all fight the enemy face to face," said our President.

But there are two things we can do: Buy more War Bonds and Cut more pulpwood.

Remember there's always a voice saying the right thing to you somewhere if you'll only listen for it.

—Thomas Hughes

A good listener is a silent flatterer. How poor are they who have not patience! What wound did ever heal but by degrees.

—Shakespeare

A widespread, hopeful disposition is the best umbrella for this vale of tears.

—W. D. Howells

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.

—Helen Keller



Fred L. Packer—Bressler Editorial Cartoons, Inc.

News and Comment From Raleigh

CAPITAL LETTERS

By

THOMPSON GREENWOOD

DRAFT—People are discussing the low prices cattle are bringing these days—3 to 7 cents per pound on the hoof—the lowest since the days of depression. Here is one reason given for the decline: a year ago, Draftman Hershey and his draft boards said that farm boys having so many units on their places would not be drafted. Many farmers not having cattle found that the quickest way to acquire units was to buy cows, so they used their cotton and tobacco cash and so did. But the unit system was all but thrown out the window, and since then there has been an ever-increasing flow of cattle to market, bringing the prices down accordingly.

SKINNY—Harold (Skinny) Brown, who used to give the revenue officers of Northwestern North Carolina many a merry chase over the narrow, tortuous trails of the brushy mountains, has been given a medal of honor for meritorious service with the bazooka in the Italian theatre of war. Brown, personable and likable when not aroused, is a ball of fire when he gets in trouble. He got in trouble on the Anzio Beach Head several months ago and plugged three German tanks one afternoon.

The Allies were shot at plenty at Anzio. "This seemed to bother the other boys right much", Brown wrote recently, "but I didn't mind so much. I was used to it."

DECISION—The political folks around Raleigh think Governor-Elect Gregg Cherry made an exceptionally wise decision in not giving a decision on his preference for Speaker of the House. The meeting in Raleigh regarding the speakership put Cherry in a corner, but he edged out of it, reminding one of that old railroad-er's advice to his daughter who was almost in the clutches of the villain: "Run for the roundhouse, Nellie. He can't corner you there!"

BARKER'S CREEK NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Jones of Newport News, Va., have been spending a few days with Mr. Jones' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Jones.

Miss Myrtle and Gayle Brooks were the guests of Mrs. Fannie Mae Elders on Sunday.

Mrs. Artie Gibson and granddaughter, Doris Sutton, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Davis.

Mrs. Pauline Bradley and Miss Gretchen Johnson were the guests of Mrs. Lee Bradley on Monday.

Mrs. John Brooks of Gay spent a few days with friends and relatives on Barker's Creek.

Miss Gretchen Johnson is conducting a Bible school at the Baptist church here this week.

Miss Iris Sitton spent the weekend with Miss Mary Carnes.

Mrs. Felix Jones spent Wednesday with Mrs. Paul Elders and family.

BALSAM NEWS

Pvt. John Blanton, Jr., of the Army stationed in Florida, recently spent several days with his wife and family

GRAPES—The next Legislature will be asked to make a big appropriation in the interest of grape production in North Carolina. Congressmen Graham Barden and Herbert Bonner have shown interest in promoting the growing of grapes and have promised substantial Congressional assistance providing the Legislature will do its part. North Carolina produced more grapes this year (6,500 tons) than any other Southern state except Arkansas.

MEDICINE—You may expect a hard battle in the Legislature when the matter of State aid for medicine comes up. Tentative plans at this time call for the setting up of a mammoth medical school and hospital at Chapel Hill similar to the Duke establishment. John Umstead, brother of National Committeeman William, and close to the Cherry establishment, may lead the fight for big medical setup. Those who will be opposed to it will say that the Federal government is coming along with socialized medicine, and consequently there is no reason for the State to get into such an expensive project. Chances are strong that the movement will be defeated.

TURKEYS—Horton Doughton, who may or may not remain on the Board of Conservation and Development after this year, is nevertheless one of the State's ranking conservationists. He is doing wonderful work along this line on his farm at Laurel Springs, in Alleghany county. If you know Hort and are pretty friendly with him, here is a good tip. He has a fine flock of wild turkeys on his farm, perhaps you can wangle one from him for your Christmas dinner. Warning: do not try to get one without his permission.

here. He has reported back to camp in Maryland for further duty.

Cpl. Willis C. Beck, of the U. S. Marine stationed on an Air-Craft Carrier, was home last week for two days. Cpl. Beck entered service in October, 1942. He received training at Parris Island, Norfolk, Va. Sea School and from there to his present station. He has reported back for further duty.

Word has been received here of the death of Pvt. B. Jim Fisher on Oct. 30. Pvt. Fisher was serving in France, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fisher.

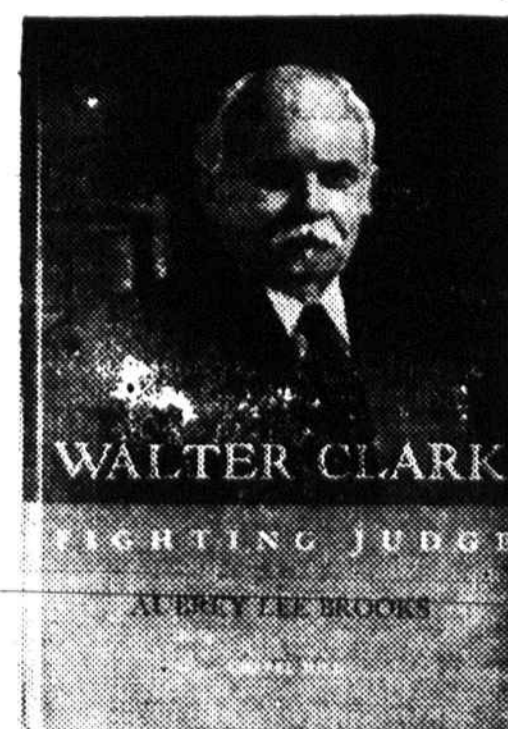
The Thanksgiving program and the cake walk at the Balsam school was a great success. It was sponsored by the PTA. Music was furnished by the "Gentry Boys" and Clyde Bryson.

QUALLA NEWS

Pfc. Charles Buren Terrell of Camp Shelby, Miss., is spending a few days' furlough with homefolks.

Miller Hall of the U. S. Army now stationed in Francisco spent the week end with his wife and son, Jimmie, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob

A MINIATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA



I would like to see this book on the private reading list of all thoughtful Americans.

John T. Frederick,

Chicago Sun Book Week

"It is one of the best and most interesting biographies I have ever read."—C. C. Wyche, United States District Judge, Columbia, S. C.

"The style is splendid and the subject matter is interesting from beginning to end... Every lawyer in North Carolina and every other citizen of the state interested in its history ought to read (this) book."—John J. Parker, United States Circuit Judge.

"It is a thoroughly fine piece of work and deserves a place among our great legal biographies."—John W. Davis, former Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

This, to me, is one of the most fascinating biographies of recent years. It is a North Carolina miniature painted by an artist. The clear non-technical, non-legal style carries the reader from one dramatic incident to another in the life of a man whose influence as soldier, lawyer, chief justice of his state and champion of reform will last for ages. Ben R. Lacy, Union Seminary Review.

BY AUBREY LEE BROOKS

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Hall, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Terrell of Asheville spent the week-end at the home of Mr. J. K. Terrell.

Mr. Alton Edwards and family spent Sunday with relatives at Whiteside.

The Home Demonstration Club met with Mrs. C. P. Shelton Tuesday.

Besides the business session, a Thanksgiving lunch was spread and a social hour enjoyed.

Mrs. C. O. Newell called at several Qualla homes Tuesday.

Woody Hampton Promoted To 2nd Lieutenant

Word has been received that Woody Hampton has been promoted from M. Sgt. to 2nd Lt. Lt. Hampton is serving somewhere with the Ordnance Department in Holland. His promotion was given for meritorious achievement. He has been overseas since last January.

The Hessian fly is already showing up in fields where growers planted wheat in their grazing mixtures early in the fall. The fly may cause serious damage next spring. It has killed the wheat in many cases.

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